(v) Protecting investors;

(vi) Enforcing contracts; and

(vii) Closing a business.

The report investigates the scope and manner of regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it.

(c) and (d) Government have examined the report, particularly with reference to areas where procedures could be simplified to encourage the private sector within the country. Improvements in respect of the above indicators is an ongoing process.

Rain Insurance Scheme

†*226. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched a Rain Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the same; and

(c) the number of farmers likely to be benefited by this scheme during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AICL) has launched, during Kharif 2005, a rainfall based insurance product, namely Varsha Bima — 2005 in 130 districts spread over 10 states *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme covers anticipated shortfall in crop yield on account of deficit rainfall. It was voluntary for all classes of farmers. This scheme was available upto 15th June, 2005 for Sowing Failure option and upto 30th June, 2005 for Seasonal Rainfall Insurance/Rainfall Distribution Index.

(c) AICL has reported that during Kharif 2005,1.25 lakh farmers were insured under the scheme with a sum insured of approx. Rs. 60 Crores.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.